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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/588,589

04/18/2007

Frederic Beck

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EXAMINER

HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/588,589	Applicant(s) BECK ET AL.	
	Examiner MIKE HERNANDEZ	Art Unit 3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/4/06 & 4/18/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 4/18/07 is a substantial duplicate of the one filed 8/4/06 and therefore has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 4-6 recite the limitation "the plane". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,580,118 to Crotty.

Regarding claim 1, Crotty discloses a component that is designed for use in a vehicle, comprising: a structural part (16) and a cover element (18), the cover element being connected to the structural part by a removable connection (Fig 6), so that a connecting movement of the cover element relative to the structural part is provided to produce the connection, in a direction substantially tangential to at least one main extension direction of the cover element.

As to claim 2, Crotty discloses the cover element has at least one main extension direction substantially in a plane and the connecting movement is carried out substantially in the plane.

As to claims 3 and 4, it is an obvious expedient to curve the visor assembly of Crotty such that the extension direction would be along a cylindrical peripheral surface and the connecting movement would be carried out in said surface in order to conform the visor assembly to a vehicle roof.

As to claim 5, Crotty discloses at least one first sliding element (100) cooperates with at least one second sliding element (106) for locking the cover element relative to the structural part, in the movement as described above.

As to claim 9, 10, and 12, Crotty shows (Fig 5) the component is a sun visor with a frame (90) that covers an edge of a mirror.

As to claim 11, Crotty discloses a method for producing a component as applied to the claims previously.

As to claim 13, Crotty discloses a set of three connecting elements cooperating with a second set of three connecting elements. Crotty also discloses the connecting elements may be sliding elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crotty in view of Japanese Pat No 2002-127819 to Gokuritsu.

Regarding claim 6, Crotty discloses a component as applied previously however fails to disclose a snap-in connection.

Gokuritsu teaches (Fig 2) a vehicle component comprising at least one first sliding element (13) that cooperates with at least one second sliding element (8) and a snap-in connection (6,11) for locking the component relative to a structural part relative to movement in the plane of the structural part.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device described by Crotty with a snap-in connection, as taught by Gokuritsu, in order to lock the cover element in place so that vibration of the vehicle would not cause it to work itself loose.

As to claims 7 and 8, Gokuritsu teaches a simple snap-in connection that is inherently reversibly removable. It is an obvious expedient to make such a connection irreversible.

Claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,365,416 to Peterson in view of Gokuritsu.

Regarding claim 14, Peterson discloses a sun visor for use in a vehicle, comprising: a structural part (18) having a first set of connecting elements (122) disposed on a first side of the structural part; at least one of a body part (29) and a decorative material (25) overlying at least a portion of the first side of the structural part; and a cover element (128) overlying one of the body part and the decorative material, the cover element having a second set of connecting elements (136) configured to interconnect with the first set of sliding elements to couple the cover element to the structural part with at least one of the body part and the decorative material therebetween.

Peterson fails to disclose the connecting elements being sliding elements.

Gokuritsu teaches connecting elements having a first set of sliding elements (8) cooperating a second set of sliding elements (13).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device described by Peterson with first and second sliding elements, as taught by Gokuritsu, in order to secure the cover member to the structural part for use with the snap-in connection.

As to claims 15 and 16, Gokuritsu teaches a sliding movement in the tangential direction of a structural part and the cover member relative to each other.

As to claims 17-19, Gokuritsu teaches a connection as applied previously.

As to claim 20, Peterson shows the sun visor comprises a mirror and the cover element covers an edge region.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MIKE HERNANDEZ whose telephone number is (571)272-2354. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis H. Pedder/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3612

Application/Control Number 10/588589

Art Unit 3612

/MIKE HERNANDEZ/

Examiner, Art Unit 3612